



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SYBIL BRAND
COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS**

**500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (15-4242)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, Commissioner Johanna Arias-Bhatia, Vice Chairperson Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Susan Burton, Commissioner Keren M. Goldberg, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Theresa Zhen

Excused: Commissioner Percy Duran III and Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Call to Order. (15-4043)

Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the August 19, 2015 Minutes. (15-4044)

On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by Vice Chairperson Bigby, unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II DISCUSSIONS

2. Discussion and general overview of the duties of the Los Angeles County Probation Commission.

- Cyn Yamashiro, President (15-4155)

Cyn Yamashiro, President, Los Angeles County Probation Commission (LACPC), provided a brief self-introduction and background information on the LACPC. He stated that he was appointed to the LACPC by Second District Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. Prior to being appointed to the Commission, he worked as a professor for Loyola Law School where he started the Center for Juvenile Law and Policy which focused on juvenile law and policies locally and nationally. He is currently in private practice as a Criminal Law attorney.

He stated that the LACPC is a State of California mandated Commission (Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 225-240) which requires that all counties in California to have a Juvenile Justice Commission that is responsible for overseeing the Juvenile Justice System including the administration of laws governing the Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Detention Facilities. Special provision is given to those counties with a population of more than six million. The Probation Commission has the same responsibilities as the Juvenile Justice System and play an advisory role to the courts as well as serve as a Civilian Oversight over the Probation Department. The LACPC was authorized by the State of California to subpoena witnesses and records when necessary. LACPC inspects the Juvenile halls, camps and courts. LACPC meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room 739, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA.

He also stated that the LACPC's inspections are unannounced and they keep track of staffing ratio and their duties, how the juvenile are being treated and what type of service(s) are implemented to ensure that the juvenile are receiving the proper treatment for their particular needs. They conduct at least one public meeting in each Supervisorial District each year. He suggested that Commissioners from LACPC and SBC attend each-others' meetings in an effort to collaborate and possibly receive training on inspecting Juvenile halls from an expert. SBC was invited to attend the LACPC September 23, 2015 meeting to hear discussion on a common issue of the Security Housing Unit (SHU).

Mr. Yamashiro further stated that the LACPC does not have the same resources as the SBC, they have no staffing or operating budget and they are currently looking at options for financial resources.

Responding to the SBC Commissioners' inquires, Mr. Yamashiro stated that the LACPC areas of focus are on hiring, specialty recruitment and training as well as the creation of an inspection tool which is consistent with Title 15. A copy of the tool will be forwarded to the SBC staff for distribution to the Commissioners.

Chairperson Montaña thanked Mr. Yamashiro for taking time to come and address the SBC's concerns and providing background on the Probation Commission and SBC looks forward to possibly collaborating with the LAPCPC.

- 3. Discussion to determine the frequency of the special meeting with the representatives from DCFS and Probation Department. (15-4157)**

During a brief discussion to determine the frequency of having the special meeting with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation Department (PD), Commissioner Andrews recommended that the special meeting should be held on an as needed basis.

Commissioner Burton suggested that the Special Meeting be held on a monthly basis in addition to the regular Business meeting, and also include guests of special interest in addition to the DCFS and PD. The Sheriff's Department should have representation on a consistent basis at these meetings. She also directed staff to invite Max Huntsman, Inspector General, to come and address the SBC at a future Special meeting.

Commissioner Zhen suggested that the Sybil Brand Commission (SBC) should utilize more technology to advance the work of the Commission and to disseminate information regarding the SBC to the public.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Susan Burton, seconded by Commissioner Keren M. Goldberg, unanimously carried, the Sybil Brand Commission will continue to have a regular monthly Business meeting in addition to calling a Special meeting once each month.

4. Review of all SBC Inspection Forms. (15-4156)

This item was continued to the September 9, 2015 meeting without discussion.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

5. Discussion on whether or not the monthly SBC Business Meeting start time should be changed from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (15-4158)

Commissioners expressed their concerns during a discussion on whether the Commission should change the start time of the Monthly Business meeting from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

After discussion, by Common Consent the monthly Business meetings will continue to be held at 10:00 a.m. pending the review and approval of the SBC By-laws.

III. REPORTS

6. Chairperson's Report on various items. (15-4045)

Chairperson Montaña also shared the following Newspaper Articles with the Commission:

Daily Breeze

- **Supes Sign off on Plan to Build Jails, Divert Some Inmates - September 2, 2015**
- **L.A. County Cuts Down on Car Washes - August 28, 2015**
- **Ridley-Thomas not so Frugal After All - August 26, 2015, Editorial (Opinion A11)**

Los Angeles Times

- **Youth Facility Execs Charged - September 2, 2015**

7. Treasurers report. (15-4046)

Commissioner Andrews reported that the balance of the Commissioner's Charitable Fund remains at \$408.90.

8. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports. (15-4047)

Staff reported that all presentations have been confirmed for the September 2015 meetings.

9. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from August 20, 2015 to September 1, 2015. (15-4048)

During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited:

- Optimist - "San Fernando Valley Group Home" (Wolfskill Street, Mission Hills, CA) on September 1, 2015.
- Children's Homes of Southern California - Baird Group Home (Baird Avenue, Reseda, CA) on August 31, 2015.

Commissioner Andrews visited:

- Men's Central Jail (Bauchet Street, Los Angeles, CA) on August 26, 2015.

Vice Chairperson Bigby visited:

- Sylmar Juvenile Court (Filbert Street, Sylmar, CA) on August 28, 2015.
- Hillside Home for Children - "Girls' Satellite Home" (North Hill Avenue, Pasadena, CA) on August 27, 2015 and noted that Bedroom No. 3 needs a new mattress.
- Fleming & Barnes Diamondale Adolescent #2 (63rd Street West, Lancaster, CA) on August 17, 2015 and noted that Bedroom Nos. 1 and 3 need new mattresses.
- Palmdale Sheriff Station (East Avenue Q, Palmdale, CA) on August 17, 2015.

Commissioner Arias Bhatia visited:

- LAC+USC Jail Ward (North State Street, Los Angeles, CA) on September 1, 2015.

Commissioner Goldberg visited:

- Penny Lane - Satellite #9 (Clybourne Avenue, North Hollywood, CA) on August 24, 2015.

Commissioner Zhen visited:

- Pico Rivera Sheriff Station (Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, CA) on September 1, 2015 and noted a recent use of force on an inmate; there are no cameras in the cells and the phone system does not work.
- Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall and Sylmar Juvenile Court (Filbert Street, Sylmar, CA) on August 27, 2015.
- Michael Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse (4th Street West, Lancaster, CA) on August 26, 2015 and noted that cell No. 43 needs painting.

During the reporting period, the following facility was reported as being in un-satisfactory condition:

Commissioners Burton and Grills visited:

- Men's Central Jail (MCJ) (Bauchet Street, Los Angeles, CA) on August 24, 2015 and noted the following issues.
 - Dorms 9100 and 9200 do not have enough supplies in the First Aid kit; there are safety hazards in both showers (slippery floors need skid prevention strip); two toilets are broken and filthy which are subject to cause health issues and there is significant water leaks in the bathrooms; the urinals are stopped up and the inmates complained that they are not receiving any outdoor activities or recreation.

Commissioner Burton directed staff to forward the findings to the Board of Supervisors and the Office of the Inspector General. Staff was also directed to invite the Inspector General to come and address the SBC's concerns regarding the conditions at MCJ.

Commissioner Zhen visited.

- El Monte Courthouse (East Valley Boulevard, El Monte, CA) on September 1, 2015 and noted that there was a hole in the floor near the toilet in cell No. 1; cell Nos. 2, 3 and 5 needs to be painted and the First Aid kit needs to be stocked with supplies.

Commissioner Zhen directed staff to forward her findings to the Board of Supervisors.

Not Home

Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited:

- Optimist - "San Fernando Valley Group Home" (Wolfskill Street, Mission Hills, CA) on August 25, 2015.
- Children's Homes of Southern California - Baird Group Home (Baird Avenue, Reseda, CA) on August 24y, 2015.

Vice Chairperson Bigby visited:

- Hillside Home for Children - "Girls' Satellite Home" (North Hill Avenue, Pasadena, CA) on August 26, 2015.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

10. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-4049)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

11. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (15-4050)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment for the meeting of September 2, 2015. (15-4051)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of September 2, 2015 at 12:56 p.m.